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THE NEW YEAR.

BY T. C. HARRAUGH.

A guest to our doors thro' the star adorned night
Comes softly the New Year in vestments of white;
The earth lies a dreaming and down in the dells
Is heard the clear echo of musical bells,
From mystical regions that legend hath crown'd,
From far away lands which no traveler hath found,
Dispensing the favors foretold by no seer
To a world that is waiting comes on the New Year.

There's a sigh on the wind and a trail in the snow,
And a figure is bowed where the night breezes blow,
And the finger of Time, with a gesture most drear,
Points into oblivion the vanishing year.
Ay, soon will be pealing the merriest chimes,
And hearts will rejoice in earth's manifold climes;
For, hailed by the nations, in robes of samite
The New Year is treading the pathway of night.

He brings to our portals rare moments of bliss,
And the chalice he offers he crowns with a kiss;
But if he should bring us a sorrow or pain
Let the fingers of love sweep the harp strings
again.

The horizon glows as the stars disappear,
And the morn that we see is the smile of the year,
And the flakes, as they fall in their own spotless
hue,
Are the shroud of the Old and the crown of the
New.

Then hail the New Year and the joys it foretells,
Mid the roar of the blast and the jingle of bells;
Where eager he treads the white vistas of snow
The roses of Summer will blossom and blow.
Fill high to our guest, in the rosyate morn
An era of gladness and splendor is born;
With hopes that may never be stained with a tear
Let every one welcome the gleesome New Year.

MLLE. MOLIERE'S ADVENTURE.

ADAPTED FROM THE FRENCH
BY DUDLEY WINTHROP MOORE.

MANY days had already passed since the burning at the stake, on the Place de Greve, of the Lavoisier and the Livigoreux, those wretched women by whose poison many a husband who had become inconvenient, tiresome wives and troublesome lovers, had been removed from the world. But Paris had not yet forgotten the affair, and the terrible end of the poisoners, for had not the highest in the land and in society been numbered among their customers? And had not this trial brought to light matters that disclosed this vice, which was already spread throughout France?

It was as if these terror inspiring names were to remain still long in the memory of man, for now Mlle. Molere had put their characters on the stage, and "La Devineresse" attracted every evening a large audience.

The theatre in the Rue Mazarin had been sold out for three evenings already. On the third evening the king himself had appeared to see the drama. In his company was the president of the famous Chambre Ardente—that "burning chamber" where distinguished criminals, particularly heretics and poisoners, were tried.

"The play pleases me," Louis XIV had remarked to Mlle. Molere, in the course of the evening. "Who knows if it will not contribute to cure my people of this dreadful crime?"

"Or it may destroy the whole royal troupe," murmured the Minister of State, who hated the actors and begrudged them the king's favor. "These poisoners, mademoiselle, are very revengeful, and will not permit your play to pass without further ceremony."

This remark did not please the king, for he was afraid himself of becoming one day the victim of such a crime. But Mlle. Molere was so delighted with her success, and the favor of the king, that the minister's speech did not cause her any black thoughts. She withdrew to her dressing room, and forgot soon enough in her role the little discord.

The following evening she went from her apartments alone to the theatre. The night was dark, but the air strengthened and refreshed her. When she was on the point of opening the door to the stage entrance a man suddenly stepped in her way and thrust a letter into her hand.

"Mlle. Molere," he said, and wished to hasten away, but his sword was caught in his cloak, and as the door was opened from within just then the light fell on his face and showed a deep scar that ran over the left cheek. She saw only that, when he hastily tore himself loose and disappeared in the darkness. In her dressing room she opened the letter and read:

"If 'La Devineresse' continues on the stage two evenings more the Lavoisier will be avenged. Two persons live who will not allow their names to be insulted any longer. You are warned, Mlle. Molere—you shall either produce another play, or —"

The actress wavered a moment, and fear seized her; but then she shrugged her shoulders and laughed scornfully.

"Freyinet!" she called several minutes later, after she had quickly written a few lines and sealed them, together with the threatening letter—"Freyinet, take this immediately to the Chambre Ardente."

When the door closed after the messenger she heaved a sigh of relief, and began to dress for her part.

With this sigh of relief her fear had left her. That evening she glided peacefully, as if nothing had befallen her, for she had confidence in the

power of the Chambre Ardente, and after the letter had been sent thither she thought of it no longer. For that reason she sprang up, very much surprised, when, on the following afternoon the maid servant announced to her that a gentleman from the Chambre Ardente, wished to speak with her on pressing business.

"What is his name?" she asked.
"Monsieur Dupin."

"I will receive him directly."
A few minutes afterwards a tall, thin man entered the room. He bowed and waited until the maid servant had withdrawn. Mlle. Molere spoke first.

"You come from the Chambre Ardente, mon-

seur, on account of the letter I sent?"

"Yes, mademoiselle."

"Do you believe that somebody is playing a joke on me, or is the matter to be taken seriously?"

Mons. Dupin smiled somewhat sarcastically.

"I beg you not to think lightly of the matter. But as to how the revenge will be brought about, that we do not know yet. A servant will be bribed, perhaps, to mix a deadly poison with your food, or perhaps a letter dipped in poison will be sent to kill you, or you may be openly attacked. Oh, you shudder, mademoiselle, but you do not know the horrible things that are done every day. The Chambre Ardente knows it. No one is safe nowadays. Death waits behind our backs just when we think ourselves the safest."

He became almost passionate in speaking, and his eyes sparkled. But he mastered himself all at once, and was again reserved and smiling.

"Oh, how you frighten me!" cried the actress, covering her eyes with her hands, so as not to see the terrible vision conjured up by the officer.

"I beg your pardon, mademoiselle. I only wish to represent to you the danger, to induce you to be more cautious. However, fear nothing. The Chambre Ardente knows whither it has to turn. Indeed, even at this very moment I believe I know the guilty one."

She gave a cry of relief.

"Of course it would be best to let the play disap-

pear from the stage immediately. Will you agree to that?"

"No," she replied, slowly. "I will not. The success is too great."

"Could you, perhaps, describe the man who gave you the letter?"

"Oh, yes; I still see his repulsive face before me!"

"Very well, then you must help us in this manner. After the theatre go this evening to the Place de Greve. One of our officers will meet you and accompany you to one of our secret houses in the Rue de Sainte Croix. There we have several prisoners, whom you must see. Did the man have a scar under the left eye?"

with fear and trembling. It was the disfigured face of the messenger who had thrust the letter into her hand. She felt near fainting, and only with a great effort held her erect.

So the Chambre Ardente did not have the right man in custody—that was her first thought—for did he not go about at liberty! What was now to be done? "Perhaps," she said to herself, "I am mistaken. There are, indeed, so many faces with such scars." She resolved, finally, to keep the appointment on the Place de Greve, but beforehand she wrote the following note in her dressing room, which she had meanwhile reached:

"To the Chambre Ardente: Have just seen in the Rue Mazarin the man who gave me the threatening

"Oh, it is you, Mons. Dupin?"

"Yes, it is I, mademoiselle."

"Thank heaven! I feared that I had been decoyed into a trap!"

A hand grasped hers, and led her forward several yards in the darkness. Then a door was opened, and they entered a dimly lighted room, which seemed to be half a library, half a laboratory.

"Please be seated," said Mons. Dupin, politely. "I think I have settled the affair. The Chambre Ardente knows what it has to do. Yes, yes, I should think so! But before you see these horrible faces you must first take a glass of wine, for you are certainly a little tired after your rapid walk, and somewhat agitated by your fear," and with a convincing smile he poured out a glass of wine.

"Drink, I beg you," he said.

She emptied the glass with one draught, for she really felt rather weak, and as she placed the glass on the table she also smiled light heartedly at her host. But when she looked at him the smile died on her lips. She stared at him, at first surprised, then, however, full of anxiety, for Mons. Dupin eyed her penetratingly.

"What's the matter? What's the matter?" she cried, trembling. "What does this look mean?"

The man before her seemed to have become another. Hate and joy played hide and seek in his face. He seemed to have transformed himself into a true monster. And suddenly, as she still looked at him, quite petrified, he threw his arms in the air and broke out into a diabolical laugh.

"You have drunk my wine, Mlle. Molere," he cried, with teeth pressed together, but with a calm voice. "The wine was poisoned!"

The actress started up and wrung her hands with terror.

"Oh, God! oh, God!" she almost shrieked, "what does all this mean? What have you done?"

"You will learn all soon enough," he replied, with cruel harshness. "The wine does not operate before five hours; so we have time to repeat the story often."

He paused a moment, and then, on a sudden, continued excitedly: "I am the Lavoisier's son, not Mons. Dupin, not an officer of the Chambre Ardente—the Lavoisier's son, the son of the woman whom you have put in your cursed play. I loved my mother, mademoiselle. I saw her burn, shrivel before my eyes, and laughed—laughed with rage, with madness, when I heard her old bones crack and saw her flesh roast. And since then three who occupied high offices have died quite naturally, though somewhat unexpectedly. Ah! ah! ah! died through me—through my medicine, do you understand? And now you will follow them, too. In five hours you will fall asleep, never to awake again, and nobody can say that you were poisoned. In five hours! No one could help you, even if you were not quite safe here, for I alone know the antidote."

He drew a little vial from his pocket and held it high, at the same time laughing devilishly. And as he still laughed a hand was thrust through the half opened door and snatched the vial from him. Then, quick as lightning, three men rushed into the room. A struggle followed. Strong men breathed deeply, as in agony. But it was soon over. Shattered and securely accompanied, the prisoner was quickly conducted from the room. The leader now approached Mlle. Molere, who lay unconscious on the floor. He rubbed her hands and wether forehead with water.

"Where am I? What happened?" she murmured after a while.

"Drink this at once," said the man, "it is the antidote."

She put the vial to her lips and swallowed the contents.

"You had a narrow escape, mademoiselle," her deliverer went on, supporting her with his arms. "It is fortunate that you wrote to the Chambre Ardente this evening, and mentioned the Rue de Sainte Croix. We were already on the track of the writer of the threatening letter, and knew that it was a trap when you wrote about our agent. Our agent—indeed! We let you, however, keep the appointment, in order to effect the arrest. We watched you when you entered the house, and then we began our work. We have five of them already, mademoiselle—five, all caught in the act of preparing poison—deadly poison. This Lavoisier is the worst scoundrel of the band. But now allow me to accompany you home. This evening, mademoiselle, you have done the king a great service."

BARGAIN DAY TRAVELING.

Given bargains and a bargain hunter, and her purchases end only with the money in her purse. A woman who belongs in the head and front of this class boarded a street car, carrying with difficulty a huge market basket filled with the odds and ends of a department store. She was scarcely seated before she started at the conductor's voice:

"Fare, please."

The woman got out her purse with difficulty and rummaged through its various compartments.

"Dear, dear!" she murmured. "I was sure I had saved a fare, or I never should have bought those three old dusters."

Then she added to the conductor: "I live at the end of the line, and will pay you then."

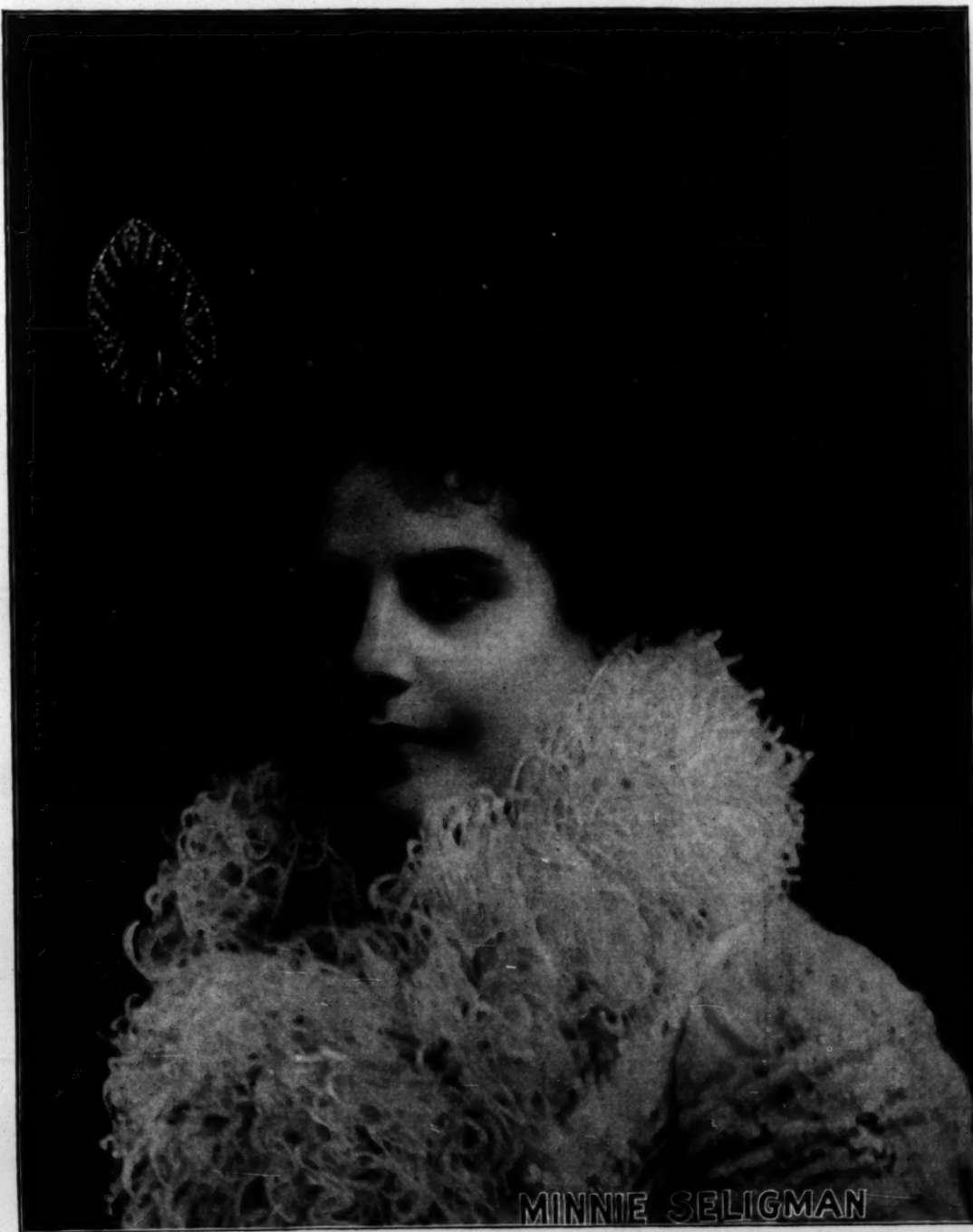
"You must pay now, lady," said the fare taker. "That's the rule."

"But I haven't any money," she objected.

"Well, I tell you, give me a five cent bargain and you can redeem it at the end of the trip; only we don't take dusters on this line."

The woman hesitated a moment, then she dived in her basket and brought out a long bar of laundry soap.

Everybody in the car laughed as the conductor rang up her fare.—*Youth's Companion.*



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"Yes, mademoiselle."

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"Of course it would be best to let the play disap-

"Yes—a deep scar. I still see it distinctly."

"Many have such scars, but the man may be the right one. Then you will be there?"

"Certainly. Will you also be there, monsieur?"

"Yes. By the bye, was another officer of the Chambre here? You must know that we work secretly, and scarcely one knows what the other does."

"No, nobody was here."

"Then an revoir, mademoiselle. This evening, after the theatre, in the Rue de Sainte Croix."

And with a bow he went out.

Although Mlle. Molere viewed everything in life from the sunny side, and could never take an affair very much in earnest, on this particular evening she was greatly depressed and nervous. She thought over Mons. Dupin's words, and was afraid to eat anything, to go out or to remain at home; in fact, she was almost afraid to be alone, and many times looked anxiously on all sides. At the usual hour, however, thickly veiled, and dressed in a large cloak, she started for the theatre. She made a long detour, avoided all lonely streets and mixed with the crowd where it was the noisiest. In her haste, at the corner of the Rue Mazarin, she ran against a drunken man, who would have handled her violently had not a passing gentleman come to her assistance. A crowd had quickly collected about her, and in the midst of this tumult she caught sight of a terrible face, which filled her

letter—I at least think it was he. However, I shall go this evening to the house in the Rue de Sainte Croix, as I promised your agent, Mons. Dupin, this afternoon."

The play was over, and the audience dispersed. The streets, faintly lighted by the new moon, lay still and solitary. Mlle. Molere, again deeply veiled, walked with rapid steps toward the Place de Greve. When she reached the square, which a short time before was the scene of wild excitement, but now lay there tranquilly in the moonlight, she perceived the figure of a man, who approached her.

"Mlle. Molere?" he asked, with a deep, low voice, when he was by her.

She nodded.

"Follow me," he added.

Without speaking a word they walked through a veritable labyrinth of streets, and only when the man had reached the door of a house in a little side street did he say:

"This is the Rue de Sainte Croix."

The door was opened at once.

"Enter," he said, and the lady stepped over the threshold, accompanied by her guide.

In the entrance hall it was pitch dark. She stood still, frightened.

"Where am I?" she exclaimed.

"Come on, come on—all is in order," said a voice.

FISH AND QUINN write from Budapest, Hungary, under date of Dec. 6, as follows: "We commenced a month's engagement here Dec. 1, at Somogy's Orpheum, and for once we have 22 Americans in the programme with us, but we are mixed up with Hungarians, Italians, Germans, Russians and a troupe of living pictures from the wilds of Turkey. We made a tremendous hit here, took six curtain calls and then they wouldn't let the show go. The director came in our dressing room and begged us to compliment again, but when he saw how exhausted we were he went on and bowed himself. We received a letter from Albertus and Bartram stating that they would have Christmas dinner with us in Budapest, and as we have no show that night you can imagine how we'll 'whoop it up.' We will have a Bowery blow out. This is a fine city. Electric cars and an underground railway. I wish to remark that the electric cars never seem to run over anyone. We had to get passports here or stop working. A colored man claiming to be a brother of 'Black Patti' was taken off the second night of last month, and as he couldn't furnish sufficient proof of his birth and antecedents to the American consul he is still out. We have an offer to go to Constantinople from here, but it's too far to go after 22 Americans. We are enough anywhere from Fourteenth Street now. We are booked up to March, 1901. If anyone don't believe in America let him come over."

ALLIE and BERT closed a six weeks' engagement at Butte, Mont., and have opened at Helena for two weeks.

FRED ST. ONGE, of the St. Onge Bros., has recovered from the accident obtained at Proctor's Theatre on Dec. 9, and the team was at Pull's, New Haven, Ct., last week, and Worcester, Mass., week of Dec. 25. They sailed for Havana, Cuba, week of Jan. 1, and are booked for the next two weeks.

COLLINS and MA DELL met with success at the Savoy Theatre, Lowell, Mass., week of Dec. 11, in their comedy novel musical act. This week they appear at the Dewey Theatre, Camden, N. J.

BENNETT and TILSON have joined Helen Russell's Burlesque company, and are doing well through Massachusetts.

BONNIE GOODWIN was married in Jersey City, N. J., Dec. 20, to S. G. Lyons, a non-professional.

KENO, WELCH and MELROSE play Shea's Theatre, Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 18: Minnie's Theatre, One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street, Dec. 25; Grand Opera House Jan. 1, and Proctor's Theatre, Boston, Mass., to follow.

JAMES G. COWDER informs us of his marriage to Violet Escher, of the Escher Sisters, in Denver, Col., Dec. 14.

HARRY BUDWORTH, of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Budwirth, is suffering with a cold of the left vocal chord, which has compelled him to cancel some good work.

HAGUE and HERBERT have closed the following contracts: Week of Dec. 4, Tony Pastor's Theatre; Dec. 18, Huber's Museum, New York City; this week, Ninth and Tenth Street Museum, Philadelphia, Pa., with Howard Athenaeum, Boston, Mass., to follow.

BLOCKSON and BURNS finished the Keith Circuit last week at Providence, and repeat the same circuit, commencing April 30, at the Union Square; received contracts immediately on their New York engagement. They play return engagements next everywhere, Shea's circuit, Minnie's Theatre, Keith's circuit, Richmond, Va., and two months at Fair Haven, N. J., same as last season. Blockson and Burns and Annie Hart open at the Castle & Kohl circuit Jan. 21, at the Columbia Theatre, St. Louis, Mo.

WYLLIE and SANFORD write: "We spend the holidays at home, for the first time in seven years. We do not go out with the 'Pat Maloney' Show again, but intend to put out our own show, opening at Temple, N. H., on Jan. 8. If all is well, the show will be a vaudeville farce comedy; seven people, including ourselves."

HANK ADAMS has left the profession, and entered the hotel business at Stamford, Ct. He formerly managed Bell's Palace Theatre, Houston, Tex.

DAN LARY and GEORGE O'BRIEN have joined hands, and have signed with the Irwin Bros.' Big Specialty Show.

PROF. L. FOX plays the Columbia Theatre, St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 31.

BEN HARRIS put on the following acts at the Joliet Penitentiary, also at the County Jail, Chicago, Ill.: Christmas play; Harmonie Sisters; Ben Harris and son, Ray, James McVoy, Kitty Wolf, Purcell and Maynard, Kinzo, Kheros and Cole. Molly Thompson and Arlin and Wagner.

MANAGER PAUL C. BLUM, of Washburn's Minstrels, writes: "We are just making our last stand at the South and North, and are in a blaze of glory. While playing in Memphis, during the street parade, our drum major, at the risk of life and limb, stopped a furious runaway. The porter, Andy Wallace, had a distressing accident happen to him. While on top of the car a sudden lurch threw him off and his presence of mind prevented a very serious accident. As it was, he escaped with a couple of broken ribs. Al Pinard, trombone player, will be replaced at an early date."

MARIE LA BLANCHE writes: "I am this week at the Wonderland Theatre, N. Y., and next week will be at Austin & Stone's, Boston, Mass. I will join Edith La Velle March 1."

MILIE ANI has been engaged for two weeks by Manager Schubert for his Grand Opera House, Syracuse, N. Y., as a special holiday feature, to produce her new musical comedy, "The Girl in the Red Coat." Edith La Velle writes: "I have dissolved partnership with Jolly Zeb, and will continue doing my single bicycle specialty as of yore. I am this week at the Star Theatre, Hamilton, Can.; next week, Empire Theatre, Toronto, Can. The first of March I will be joined by Mlle. La Blanche."

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NOTES FROM OTIS BOWERS and AL BURN's Colossal Minstrel.—We are finishing our tour this week in Indiana, and business has been exceptionally large. Pascual, contortionist, joined at Terre Haute, and his act is receiving much applause. George and Trixie, singer, joined at Indianapolis, Ind., last week.

STALEY and BIRCKBECK send this interesting letter from Europe: "We are playing the month of December here, in the Circus Variete Copenhagen, Denmark, and the proprietor and manager, P. Haslum, is one of the best men we ever had. He is a good fortune to work for. He is worth about one million Kroners, and gives the performer the largest share of credit for helping him make it, and he devotes his spare time in making it pleasant for them. In this programme we have Charlie Nelson, who left the Nelson Family some twelve years ago. He is now working with Mr. Kronemann, whose brother was killed through a fall during his act in London, some weeks ago. The three Avolos are also here, and both acts are big successes. Our act pleased to the extent of ten curtain calls the opening night and our success continues. This is the first winter weather Copenhagen has seen in some years, and every one is skating wild. Last night we saw 20,000 people on a large expanse of ice only two blocks from the circus. Truly Shattuck's opening was a grand success in the Winter Garden, Berlin. Sabarat is still a big feature there. Ike Rose has made a contract for a special engagement in Prag with the best theatre there. He certainly has beaten the agents over here, and they don't like it a bit. He is doing the booking for a number of acts, and is doing good money and make good. The trouble with most of the agents over here is that they are afraid to ask a manager for a good salary. Just think of an agent saying: 'I can offer you an act, but it's very expensive or too dear. We have no agent to thank for any of our contracts, but we got one week open until we sail for America, next August, to spend three months in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, to work our mining property and make some of that pure and dry mountain air. American acts are so numerous now that it's hard to make a name. Albertus and Bartram, Wood, and Shepard and Juno Salmo all doing well. W. E. Bates, an American comedian, made his first appearance in Germany at Winter Garden this month, and newspapers are praising his ability in the highest of terms. Charmon in the Hanson's Theatre, Hamburg. Harry S. De Lane has a new act to introduce with four girls, which will cause a sensation. The Gotham City quartet are still a drawing card at Apollo Theatre, Berlin. The Leany Sisters are remarkably successful. They do the prettiest series of songs we saw. There is a colored comedian here by the name of George Jackson. He is the biggest favorite in Denmark. He sings the latest coon songs, and tells his jokes and stories in Danish. Out of his eight years away from the States he has played nine return engagements in Copenhagen, one of them a run of seven months. Every performer must go to the police station and tell his past life and show his birth certificate or citizenship papers. They held us two hours before we got the permit to work. We heard a good deal of Montgomery and Stone's success over here. We have booked Albert L. Gullie, a tenor singer, who was with Patti's company for eight seasons in America. He opens here on Dec. 16. He likes everything that has the name of America attached to it and we will have a very good time. We are going to Mannheim, Germany, opening there Jan. 1. We both want to be remembered with best wishes to THE CLIPPER and our professional friends, wishing all a Happy New Year."

FILSON and ERROL are spending their holiday vacation at their home in Austin, Chicago, Ill., visiting their son, Harold, who is home for Christmas. Their time is booked solid after they resume work for the season.

W. L. BISSELL writes that his Fads and Foibles company is giving the best satisfaction wherever it appears. Time for return dates is being offered in all the good houses, and his next season's time is almost entirely filled. Mr. BisSELL is going to make one or two changes in the old, Gilmore and Magee and the La Tour Sisters closing on Dec. 30, and will put a new, novel good in their place. The show is a nice, clean one, devoid of any objectionable features, and is doing a big business in houses where they want a clean show. Fads and Foibles played Fall River, Mass., on Christmas, and almost the entire house was sold in advance.

DAISY RUTHER, of the Fads and Foibles, and Roger, is spending Christmas week at her home in Washington, D. C., with her sister, aunt and father. From there she will go to Savannah, Ga., to join her partner.

GASPARD BROS. are finishing three weeks on the Kohl & Castle circuit, in Chicago, Ill., Dec. 25.

THE SHEPPARDS make their American debut this week at the Savoy Theatre, Lowell, Mass., and then go over Kohl-Castle circuit.

BLANCHÉ DREW, of Murphy and Drew, will hereafter be known as Blanche Andrew.

LEOPOLD and WESTON closed their special two weeks' engagement with Washburn's Minstrels at East St. Louis, Ill., Dec. 24 and left for St. Joe, Mo., and Omaha, Neb.

MICAO's JOLLY GRASS WIDOWS concluded a successful week's business at the London Theatre, New York, Dec. 23, and play a return engagement at the Unique Theatre, Williamsburg, this Christmas week. There will be a slight change in the cast commencing Jan. 1, one team retiring, to be succeeded by Reynolds and Page, who open at the Palace Theatre, Boston, on the above date.

MANAGER MIACIO was a constant visitor to the show, and on Friday Dec. 22, read the returns from the stage of the Terry McGovern-Harry Forbes fight.

WILLIAMS and MELBURN played at the Savoy Theatre, Lowell, Mass., Dec. 18-23.

MILIE, VIOLE played at the Sans Souci, this city, last week.

BILLY W. WATSON, who was specially engaged to play the Dutch part with the Broadway Burlesquers for two weeks, has returned to the stock of the Bijou, Washington.

FLAMOND and AMONDO open at West's Theatre, Peoria, Ill., Dec. 25, with Omaha to follow. They are booked until February in the West.

JONES and SUTTON played Theatre Comique, New York City, week of Dec. 15; week of Dec. 26, Lowell, Mass.; Jan. 1, Manchester, N. H.

GEO. W. EVERS, after an absence of five years, is spending a few weeks at his home, in Galveston, Tex.

APPLETON and ALLEN have joined hands with Richard Anderson to do an act. Mr. Anderson having dissolved partnership with Miss Kugler.

FARRELL and COX closed with Phillips' vaudeville Dec. 19, at Concord, Pa. They lay off during the holidays and rehearse a new act.

SAM WILSON and Will Reynolds have joined hands. They are rehearsing an act written by Chas. Hoyt, entitled "The Dutchman and the Spaniard."

THE BRETON RINKEL TRIO are spending the holidays at Ted Breton's home, Rockford, Ill. They open their Western tour at the Lyceum, Denver, Col., Jan. 1.

WM. F. CLARK, late of the team of Crandall and Clark, was being done an act with his wife, Verneal Franklin.

HARRY THOMSON opened at the Grand Opera House, St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 24, for a week.

MARYLAND and KATHRYN TYSON appeared at the Columbia Theatre, Boston, Mass., Dec. 18-23, in their specialty of Dutch songs and dances.

BARTELMIS is now playing over the Kohl-Castle circuit. He is at the Chicago, Ill., Opera House.

THE BENEDETTOS, while playing the Palace Theatre, Auburn, N. Y., were presented with several other presents from German Rose and Manager Jack Boone. They are booked for a return date in March. They open at Norfolk, Va., Dec. 28, for two weeks.

ROSE ELLIS DONALDSON closed week of Dec. 18 with the Gilded Burlesque Co. and will play dates: Dec. 25, Glens Falls, N. Y.; Oswego and Buffalo to follow.

BONITA has just closed at the New Gilmore Theatre, Springfield, Mass., and will play Shea's Park Theatre, Worcester, Mass., week of Dec. 25.

THE ZERKOW TRIO have closed a season of twelve weeks with Pat Maloney's "Irish Visitors" Co., and have several offers for next season.

THOS. G. LEATH, proprietor and manager of the Academy of Music, Richmond, and Academy of Music, Norfolk, is going to open a big class vaudeville theatre at Portsmouth, Va., Feb. 5. Walter J. Pinner is to be the exclusive agent. Mr. Leath also represents several street railway parks, such as Ocean View, Buckroe Beach, Broad Street Auditorium, Richmond, Va., and others.

BARRY and HENNESSY, of the Floyd Sisters were tendered a banquet Dec. 21.

WILLIS CLARK committed suicide, after attempting to kill his wife and child, Saturday afternoon, Dec. 23, at Twenty-third Street and Broadway, near Madison Square, one of the busiest corners in this city. He fired four shots, three of which went wild, and it is simply miraculous that other deaths than his own had not followed. The sidewalk was crowded with Christmas shoppers who were pale-stricken by the tragedy. Clark had not been employed since the death of Sam T. Jack closed the theatre on Broadway where he had been a member of the burlesque stock, his energies having been bent toward preparing and publishing Willis Clark's New York Comic Ledger, which finally proved a failure. Some months ago he went to Chicago, Ill., leaving his wife and child here, but ill fortune followed him in addition to his unsuccessful business efforts. A long standing affection of his eyes grew rapidly worse until he was threatened with total blindness. Friends in Chicago organized a benefit performance in his aid, and he soon thereafter returned to New York and began overtures towards a reunion with his wife, with whom he had not communicated during his absence. Mrs. Clark and child could not receive him in the boarding house where they were stopping, as they were already in arrears and the landlady would not consent to additional expense. Clark then placed himself in a rooming house, and during the few days preceding the tragedy. He made frequent visits to Mrs. Clark at her boarding house, and finally asked her to meet him on the street last Saturday. At 6 o'clock he was on his way, who is ten years of age, they walked the streets until they reached the Fifth Avenue Hotel corner, when Clark turned behind a couple of paces, drew a revolver, and taking unsteady aim, fired two shots at his wife and one at the little girl. He then turned the revolver upon himself, placed it in his mouth, and fired one shot blew out his brains, dropping dead instantly. Neither Mrs. Clark nor the little girl were injured by the bullets, but the dreadful fright attendant upon the tragedy threw them into a state of mental anguish, from which they were not quick to recover. The tragedy has made a deep impression upon the public, and the knowledge that he would soon be blind, unbalanced Clark's mind and led directly to the tragedy.

NOTES FROM O. M. McADOO'S GEORGIA MINSTRELS AND PROF. HENDERSON SMITH'S CONCERT BAND, now touring the World.—Our show has made a decided hit in Australia. We have made money and friends wherever we have been. We expect to complete our tour in 1901 and return to dear old America. Prof. Smith's band has made a decided hit in Australia. The band has been retained to remain after the close of the Australian tour; but it will be a hard task to have the boys remain after their contracts have expired. We have spent many pleasant hours fishing but no hunting as there are plenty of snakes here but no snake charmers. We spend our Christmas in the New Year, and then go to New Zealand. We do not see THE CLIPPER often, but when we do there is not an item left unread.

THE LATE SAM T. JACK'S will was admitted to probate in this city Dec. 23, Mrs. Jack having with her objection on condition that she be given the sum of \$25,000. James Jack, the estate consists of \$75,000 in personal property in this State, and there is real estate in the West. Mr. Jack left his widow, who was Emma Ward, a burlesque actress, one-third of the estate, and James G. Jack, his son, the other third is to be divided between his father, mother and other relatives.

CHAS. M. ALLISON and Emily Lancelotti will shortly enter the vaudeville field with a sketch called "Just Be a Kid."

ST. DRANE closes sixteen weeks with Gus Son's Minstrels. He will hereafter play dates, giving his white face specialty.

MCFARLAND and MURRAY have closed two weeks at the Bijou Theatre, South Chicago, Ill., and will play at the New York Theatre, Richmond, Va., Dec. 25.

GASMORE and FLORENCE have signed with Frank Readick's Black Crook Jr. Co. for twenty-two weeks' tour to the coast, playing parks and doing their specialty.

EMMA CURRAN goes into vaudeville with Gerald Quinn.

PADDY MURPHY and Blanche Andrews were engaged for one week of Dec. 11, at the Wonderland Theatre, Buffalo, N. Y., and play a return engagement Dec. 25-Jan. 1, for two weeks, with Toronto, Montreal and Hamilton to follow.

THE GRAYSONS opened on short notice at Shea's Park Theatre, Worcester, Mass., week of Dec. 18.

ROSTER of BURTON'S CARMEN GAIETY GIRLS.—Bessie Collins, the Gibson Sisters, Raymond and Anderson, Elsie May, Lottie White, Mattie Ashton, Mattie Clayton, Dora Foster, Dan Nash, Harry McElvort, Walter W. Shute, Arthur West, Harry Clark, Charles Bell, Burton and Conley, Sam Raymond and Arthur Ashton. Executive staff: Melville B. Burton, proprietor and manager; Jack Conley, business manager; Arthur Ashton, stage manager; Clousen Marks, musical director.

GASMON and ALTZ are filling Christmas week at the Dewey Theatre, Gloucester, Mass., with engagements in Boston and Fall River, Mass., to follow.

FRED NIELSEN puts in holiday week as an attraction at the Auditorium Music Hall, Baltimore, Md. Last week he played the Bijou Theatre, Richmond, Va.

HEKLY and MARRA are filling an engagement at the Deutsches Theatre, Minchen, Ger., and have Köln, Leipzig and Hanover, Ger., to follow. They state that all American acts within their knowledge are successful on the continent.

Minnie Seligman.

There is hardly an actress on the stage who has won for herself the place in the estimation of a theatregoing public, or who has made such steady and rapid progress, as Minnie Seligman. Her success is not entirely due to her youth and beauty, and a sufficiency of physical strength for her position, but to an uncommonly large measure of dramatic aptitude as well, and she has a distinct style, which never fails to please the eye and ear. Her acting is always well thought out, and so skillful in execution that it wins appreciation quite apart from the material with which it is associated. It is comparatively a few years ago that Minnie Seligman made her debut on the stage, and her real name, as she has played the Bijou Theatre, causing a sensation in the social circle to which she belonged. She first appeared as Lianid, in "Elsie," which ran for a couple of months. Later she appeared in Henry Lee's comedy at McVicker's Theatre Chicago, Ill., and also in the same theatre with Alvaugh "Midsummer Night's Dream" company. She also had great success in "Money Mad," "His Official Wife," "Uaf" and Robert Buchanan's play, "Lady Glady's." Shortly before she appeared in "Lady Glady's" she married Robert Linger, and the well known society man and a versatile amateur actor, and at the termination of her engagement with this play, at the Madison Square Theatre, in 1904, she retired from the stage, resumed her place in society and went abroad. After an absence of three years from the boards she was introduced by Mr. Bruneau to return to the stage, and she appeared, under his direction and management, at Proctor's Twenty-third Street house, in the one act drama, "Comedy and Tragedy," which W. S. Gilbert wrote especially for Mary Anderson and Bruneau, as an inducement to Miss Seligman's return. She was very well received by any star that has appeared in popular priced houses. Since her advent into vaudeville Miss Seligman has become an enthusiastic adherent of that phase of dramatics, and she says she is proud that she has been able to please the public and to continue her performance. She will appear under Mr. Bruneau's direction over the Keith circuit for a long tour, opening Jan. 15, in New York.

WYOMING.

Cheyenne.—The Telephone Girl has the call for Christmas Day. "Puddin'head Willy" Dec. 29, and "The New Year" a Trip to Cheyenne, Jan. 3. F. F. Stable has retired from the management, and Capt. H. A. Clarke, of Philadelphia fame, will become a member of the new firm of Bailey & Clarke, managers.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Boston.—The usual ante-holiday attendance prevailed at our theatres last week. The tide will turn during Christmas week, however, and for the next month Boston will have a feast of the best dramatic offerings in the market.

Boston Museum (J. H. Rich, Harris and Frohman, managers).—Closed on Tuesday, 19, with an attractive vaudeville bill, including Mlle. Lotty, Calcedo, John Kernell, Tom Terriss, Flo Irwin, Tyson Sisters, Coakley and Husted, Lynch and Jewell, Kelly and Ashby, M. Bijou and Mlle. Philippe and others. Christmas matinee inaugurates the limited engagement of "A Greek Slave" with Dorothy Morton, Minnie Ashley, Richard Carle and Hugh Chivers in the cast. Treasurer Grace, of the Music Hall Co., denies the rumor that Hurig & Seaman have taken a ten years' lease of the house. There has been some negotiation on the subject, but no settlement has been made as yet.

HOLLIS STREET THEATRE (Isaac B. Rich, manager).—Southern closed his fortnight's engagement Tuesday, 19, with his first production in English Thursday, 21. It is a poetical drama of rare beauty, adapted from Gerhart Hauptmann's "Die Versunkene Glocke." Although a play that will never appeal to the popular taste, it drew well during the first two nights, and afforded Mr. and Mrs. Southern (Virginia Harrod) an opportunity to do excellent work. The much heralded pantomime, "Little Red Riding Hood," will be produced during Christmas week only, with daily matinees. Madge Lesing, Kitty Mitchell, Marion Tate, Helen Weston have leading roles. Coming Jan. 1, "Zaza."

COLUMBIA THEATRE and PROMENADE.—This house has bravely recovered from the shock of its temporary eclipse, and, under the new local management, responded to the doors on Tuesday, 19, with an attractive vaudeville bill, including Mlle. Lotty, Calcedo, John Kernell, Tom Terriss, Flo Irwin, Tyson Sisters, Coakley and Husted, Lynch and Jewell, Kelly and Ashby, M. Bijou and Mlle. Philippe and others. Christmas matinee inaugurates the limited engagement of "A Greek Slave" with Dorothy Morton, Minnie Ashley, Richard Carle and Hugh Chivers in the cast. Treasurer Grace, of the Music Hall Co., denies the rumor that Hurig & Seaman have taken a ten years' lease of the house. There has been some negotiation on the subject, but no settlement has been made as yet.

THEMONT THEATRE (John B. Schoeffel, manager).—"Arizona" enters upon its fourth and last week at the Christmas matinee. The professional matinee given last Thursday brought out a crowded, enthusiastic house, who witnessed one of the best performances yet given of this successful drama. Manager Schoeffel, according to the urgent request of the selected audiences that have been privileged to witness the extremely interesting Spanish performances, has arranged to give three more last matinees on Tuesday, 26, 28, 29. The second play of the Blair subscription series on 19 brought out a well filled house of fashionable and professional folk, who manifested the warmest approval of John Blair's and Florence Kahn's interpretations of the leading roles in "Les Tenebres." Coming, Jan. 1, "The Shrike."

BOSTON THEATRE (Eugene Tompkins, manager).—"Supers" has had very good patronage during its first week, and will continue as the Christmas week offering. Jan. 1, Modjeska, assisted by John Keir, will appear in "The Greek Slave," after a long absence from this city. In "Mary Stuart."

PARK THEATRE (Eugene Tompkins, manager).—"Sag Harbor" has not yet loosened its hold on public interest, although it opens its tenth week Christmas Day.

OLD ORPHEA HOUSE (Geo. W. Magee, manager).—Christmas would not be Christmas to the loyal followers of Joseph Murphy if he denied their annual treat of "Kerry Gow" and "Shannon Rhue." He will divide his week's engagement here between these two attractions. Jan. 1, West's Big Minstrel Jubilee.

CASTLE SQUARE THEATRE (J. B. Emery, manager).—"The Adventure of Lady Ursula" will pass into its second and last week Christmas Day, and will make way for the production of "With Flying Colors" Jan. 1.

KEITH'S THEATRE (B. F. Keith, manager).—The usual large holiday patronage will find several good things in this week's bill, leading off with "Ching Ling Foo," who is in his second week. Kathryn Osterman, assisted by Frederic L. Power, will appear in "The Greek Slave." Louise Gunning, Fagan and Byron, Smith and Campbell, Williams and Tucker, the Van Aukens, the Three Livingstons, Elizabeth Murray, Marsh and Bartlett, H. V. Fitzgerald, Jack Marshall's Quintet, Fox and Foxie, the Askeys, Margaret Scott, Altimoto's Japanese Troupe and new biograph pictures make a pleasing total.

HOWARD ATHENAEUM (Geo. E. Lothrop, manager).—McVoy and May's Broadway Burlesquers will fill the holiday bill to the complete satisfaction of the Howard's

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[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

ADOLPH THEATRE.—"The Children of the

Robson 28, Uncle Seth Robbins 30, Under the
Robe" Jan. 1.

"Greek Slave" at the HERALD SQUARE and "T

Neary \$2,000 was received by the committee the year. The committee having the festive charge was as follows: "Aunt Louisa" was the bridge, president; Mrs. E. L. Fernandez, vice-pres; Antonio Pastor, Joseph Hernandez, Edgar Norton, E. Rosenbaum, Mrs. Mabel and Vivian Bernard, Miss Eljon Fernandez, Mrs. C. Anna Ross, Annson, Kenyon Bishop, Beatrice Moreland, Matt Ferguson, Winifred Bonowitz, Annie White, Shelly Kenny, Ann Warrington, Milla Thorne, Ray Allen, Gertrude Perry, Kate Bartlett and Eleanor Glus. The children taking part in the concert were as follows: Josephine Miller, Mabel Bell, Edith Bell, Tony, Augusta Wilkes, Mollie Marks, Pauline Weston, Marie Jansen, the Hill sisters, the Burt sisters, Edward Tucker and Master Sheridan, and baby Juliette.

were well received as specialties. "Little Lord Fauntleroy," with La Petite Mignon as the Lord, is the bill for 25. Baby Lund has proved such an attraction that she has been engaged for a third week. The new specialties will be Monroe and Hart, and Drawsee. The Charity Ball is being prepared for Jan. 1.

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name. Take up your pen and write it. Let us know clearly and distinctly what you propose to give yourself.

DAVIDSON THEATRE (Sherman Brown, manager).—With the exception of Monday and Tuesday the house was dark the past week. Henry Miller, in "The Only Way," is down for Christmas week and is to be followed by Maude Adams. "The Runaway Girl" was here for three performances, 17-19, and made many friends for three Jackson, in the title role, and James Powers scored very heavy. Rachel Booth, My Baker and Van Rensselaer Wheeler were also well received.

Jackson, in the title role, and James Powers scored very heavy. Rachel Booth, May Baker and Van Rennsalaer Wheeler were also well received.

PANET THEATRE (Loon Wachner, manager)—The Well-Wachner Dramatic Co. gave one of the finest performances that was ever witnessed at this theatre on Wednesday night. "Mme. Sans Gene" was the bill, and the cast was made up of Paul F. Wirth, as Mme. Sans Gene; Sam J. Webb, as the Honorable; and Metzger as Le-fetre, shared the honors of the performance. Sunday, 24 "Liebele" and "Mme. Sans Gene" Christmas. **STAN THEATRE** (O. F. Miller, manager)—Sam J. F. Own Burlesque Co. put in a week to the finest kind of business, the opening performance being the record to date. The company is made up of the opening of the house. The company was one of the best to visit this theatre, and applause was liberally bestowed on all.

Week of 24, the day Masqueraders.

NOTES—Eugene More, leading man at the Academy

who fractured the article Dec. 11, is improving and will be able to resume his duties within the month. . . . The Thaw house Co. will for the second time take the Christmas dinner in Milwaukee. Covers for the entire company will be held at the Republic house.

♦♦♦♦♦

VIRGINIA.

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Richmond.—At the Academy of Music (T. G. Leath, manager) under the auspices of W. D. Moses & Co., of this city, Paderewski appeared Dec. 17, before a large and brilliant audience, and received enthusiastically. "The Country Merchant" comes for two performances at the house remaining dark the rest of the week. "Town Topics" is billed Jan. 1. "The Merry Widow" and "What Happened to Jones" &c, &c, at the Denham Thompsons 9.

BISCUIT THEATRE (Jake Wells, manager).—The week previous to Yuletide caused no diminution in the attendance at this popular resort week of 18, and the S. R. sign was frequently in evidence. Week of 26: "The World's Tris," Johnson, Davenport and Loretto, the Biscuit City Quartette, George E. Seban, Iler Trio, the Brownings, Kings Collins and the Blue Quintette.

FUTMAN'S THEATRE COMIQUE.—Patman, manager.—Opening 26 and week: Winnie Lewis, Mile. Alvoris, Pearl Weston and Jennie Barker. Business is fair.

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Norfolk—The Academy of Music (T. C. Isaac,

BLUET (THEATRE) (Abb Smith manager).—People to be seen at this house for week of Dec. 25 are: Edmons and Codair, Edna Healey, Mamie Connors, Nile, Desmond, Harry Howard and Rudolph Leonards. Last week's people held over. Business good.

AUDITORIUM THEATRE (James M Barlow, manager).—New people for week 25: The Johnsons, the Benedettes, Weston and Hale, Sisters Arnold, Bertha Locke, Musical Holbrooks and Remitz and Buckley. Business good.

Petersburg.—At the Academy of Music (Wm. E. French, manager) the Woodward-Warren Co. gave excellent performances to poor patronage week of Dec. 18. The Nashville Students are due Jan. 1.

Danville (Neal & Hoyt, managers).—Fadett Orchestra played to good house Dec. 18. "Town Topics" held the boards 22, 23, playing to fair house.

MAINE.

Portland.—Business at the local theatres the past week has been very good, considering that the holidays are now upon us.

JEFFERSON THEATRE (James E. Moore, resident manager).—The Corse Payton Stock Co. was the attraction Dec. 15-16, and also for week of 18, in a repertory to good houses. The specialties presented were a sea

Portland Theatre (M. J. Garrity, manager)—The Hot Old Time." "The Cuckoo" comes 28, and Vogel & Deming's Minstrels 29, 30.

Portland Theatre (M. J. Garrity, manager)—The Hot Old Time." "The Cuckoo" comes 28, and Vogel & Deming's Minstrels 29, 30.

NOTES—Fraderewski is booked at City Hall, Jan. 5.
The last social session of the Portland Lodge of Elks was held at the club rooms 22. Guests were present from Jackson, Astoria, Bangor and Lewiston lodges. The elaborate banquet was given by the committee, citizens being present, also members of the Corse Family and Jessie Harcourt companies. . . . Mary M. Tucker, member of the Jessie Harcourt Co., now playing at Portland Theatre, died suddenly at her hotel, 30. Miss Tucker was a native of Wisconsin, this State, and her remains were taken there for interment. . . . M. J. Garrity for the past two seasons manager of Portland Theatre severed his connection with that house 23, and will

Spokane.—“Why Smith Left Home” came Dec. 18, 19, opening to a S. R. O. house. Sam T. Shaw Stock Co. closed a two weeks' engagement 16, at popular prices. The company was worthy of better patronage than was accorded it. Coming

COMIQUE.—Openings 18: "Kathleen," James
day, Dutton Wanser, Phil Nares, Carrie McDonald,
Nettie McGinnis. The Stock Comedy Co. opened
the seventh week of its engagement with "Cobbler
and Blacksmith."

Tacoma.—At the Tacoma Theatre (L. A. Wirt resident manager) "A Hot Old Time" had a fair hot time. The house will be dark until Christmas night when Eugene Hylan, "In a Lady of Quality" appears. The Flunks did a fair business at the Lyceum 11-16. THE OWL (Peter Sandberg, manager).—Week of 11.

MINNESOTA.

St. Paul.—At the Metropolitan Opera H U (Louis N. Scott, manager) Dickinson and Muskrat "Humpty Dumpty" did big business Dec. 17-

Tim Murphy, in "The Carpet Bagger," 21-23, has the very good business. For 24, Christmas week, "Phroso," by Charles Frohman's Co., with O. P. Tyler leading. For week of 31, "The Little Minister."

GRAND (Theodore L. Hays, resident manager) "London Life" had fair business week of 17. The week of 24 a high class vaudeville bill will be the attraction. For week of 31, "A Day and a Night."

PALM GARDEN (A. Weinholzer, manager).—Business very good week of 18. For week of 25,

Gay Paris Burlesque Co., also Grace Monroe, Bob Butler, William Fogarty and Fay Lee.

Duluth.—The Lyceum (E. Z. Williams, manager) was dark week of Dec. 18. "Sowing Wind" will be the Christmas attraction matinee and night.

PARLOR THEATRE (W. J. Wells, manager).—business for the week of 18 was big. The pecuniary results for the week are: Bogge and Everette, \$1,000; and the Lyceum, \$1,000.

Arkansas.

Little Rock.—At the Capital Theatre (Robert Hamilton, manager) "Darkest Russia" came Dec.

to poor business. "Hotel Topsy Turvy" was presented to a well filled house 12, at advanced prices. "Under the Dome" drew a very small audience 14. Due to the "Friend from Iodine" 15, Manhattan Stock Co. 19-23, Amazons, by local talent, 25; Pearson's Stock Co. 2; Joshua Simpkin's Band and Orchestra Jan. 1, "The Thing" 2, Creston Clarke 5-6.

REMEMBER WE'RE ALWAYS WITH YOU.

REMEMBER, WE'RE ALWAYS WITH YOU.
"ZEREEETH TRIO."
 ED., DENNALLA. IDA.
AT LIBERTY.

WARNING TO O. H. MANAGERS AND OTHERS.

A RARE AT LIBERTY,

Business Opportunity

To any good, RESPONSIBLE party
with a small amount of **MONEY**, I will
sell a quarter or half interest in one of
the best-kept and most attractive of
the city's most famous and oldest
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Waiting at the station
For the tardy train—
Failed to get a paper—
Clouds refused to rain.
Atmosphere most stifling—
Dust and fumes galore—
Depot old and battered—
Made, I think, for Noah.

Lady, much belated,
Missing early train,
Sympathizes with me,
She'll not "come again."
Little children crying
For their home and rest,
Tired mother striving
To do her very best.

Old man, sour and surly,
Walking to and fro,
Says the railway magnates
Should be told to go;
Hated any business
Making people stay
In such a horrid country
A quarter of a day.

Lovely, smiling maiden,
In her dainty gown,
Notes the crying babies
And the angry frown:
Finds an orange somewhere,
Gives each child a part—
A sandwich and a cookie
Binds each broken heart.

Old man ceases grumbling—
Smiles upon the scene—
Maiden all unconscious
Reads a magazine.
Mother looks less weary—
In pensive vein,
Strive to moralize a bit—
Bless me! there's the train.

—MARY A. SIMPSON, in *Michigan Farmer*.

FEELINGS OF AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY.

I was, I regret to say, the Unknown Quantity, and I was so for no other reason than that I had got over my earliest youth, while she was at the balcony age of pig tails. Her pig tail was black, frequently tied with a pink ribbon, and matched her blue eyes beautifully. People say that such things—blue eyes and dark hair—are to be found in Ireland by hundreds, but they say so many things about Ireland. I have not been to Ireland, but I do not believe it. I do not believe that beauties grow on any particular soil like prize turnips.

Often I railed at Fate for reducing me to an Unknown Quantity. Why, because I was supposed to have seen the world, having been in India for a few years, because I had brought back a few tigers' claws, purchased, for all she knew, in Regent Street; because I was a little older than these boys who hovered around her, and had forgotten how to blush like them—why should I be reduced to this absurd position? After all, five years in India does not make one a grandfather, and a man may even have shot tigers without qualifying for the situation of an applicant. But Fate, rejoicing in irony, has ordained that to sixteen twenty-six shall be a mystery, separated irreconcilably by long years of experience and intolerable wisdom.

For twenty six has been like sixteen is learning department. The annoying thing about it is that in another year, or two at most, when the pig-tail shall have become a coil on the top of the head, unknown quantities will cease to exist; x, by the universal vanishing of age distinctions, will be resolved into one more man, and from twenty to a hundred no reasonable offer will be refused.

In the meanwhile we were friends—with a difference. She tyrannized over the collegians when they gathered in her train too sheepishly, or deferred to them when they blunderingly laid their reputations as rowers or batsmen at their feet, and she drank in their comfortable egotism. Our relations were not of the same simplicity. We spoke of tigers and other perplexing and oriental subjects, in which she displayed a constrained intelligence and I a fictitious interest. I am not sure even that I was not compelled to get up the religion of Buddha from dusty works of reference, and I know she scored on the subject of Avatars. It was not so very long since I had stroked my college eight and my average for cricket in India.

What does it matter? she could not understand that such subjects were meat for a traveled man, so that I had no opportunity of mentioning laurels won. Seeing on what easy terms they would have placed us, I kept regretting that I was so modest, but the laurels of mere wish or mere regret I fear I am quoting some philosopher—are withered leaves that never were green. But nearest approach to mutual understanding was when I ventured to tease her. If she understood my jokes, which happened, I admit, when they were at their poorest, we indulged in common laughter. And laughter is one of the methods of solving x. If, on the other hand, they contained some bewildering subtlety, she was good enough to overlook the point, and we went on to pastures new.

One day—I was at the time when May grows odorous among the bleaching lilacs, when laburnums let fall their yellow rain in the sunlight, and the lawning—as I am given to understand, although no ornithologist—takes himself another crest—My Lady of the Pigtail brought out a divine sailor hat. Many were the collegians who saw her home from school, and purchased boxes of chocolates to win her grace. I also bought her chocolates, of I swear, a superior flavor; but whereas she accepted theirs as votive offerings with queenly condescension, mine elicited an impulsive gratitude, as though they had been the tip of some elderly uncle. Since then gratitude—the emotional *quid* for the material *quo*—has always, in my opinion, been least among the virtues. If I had been her uncle, I might have felt differently. I suppose uncles do. But I was not her uncle, nor did I wish to be.

The pseudo-uncle position is worse than that of the brother by compact. As an Unknown Quantity I writhed. She understood enough of x to read disappointment on my face, for she set about consoling me by stating that she wished for my opinion. To ask an old man for his opinions, as if you really thought it worth listening to (which, of course, you never do), is the surest way to his good graces. I was not an old man, and I wondered if the sirens spoke with so alluring a lip. We were sitting at the tennis court, where many of her collegians were playing. I gathered from her mysterious preface that several of the collegians had made dark requests for gloves and flowers and such things, indicative of momentous intentions. She desired my opinion upon them:

"I want to know what you think of Mr. Tom Redington," she said. "Do you consider him nice?"

"Mr. Tom Redington," I replied, "is a man of exquisite taste and unimpeachable good fortune."

"Why?" she asked.

"Because he has the felicity to attract your attention."

"No; but seriously," she lisped. It was somehow understood between us that polysyllables denoted an absence of seriousness.

"Well, then," I said, "he bats, doesn't he, or rows?"

"Are you sure you're serious?" she said. "Honor bright?"

"And shilling," I said, solemnly.

"He's got a very good average so far this season," she reflected, not taking me into this athletic monologue.

"The season is young yet," I said, hopefully. "You should never count your chickens until you're sure they are ducks."

"But Mr. Dick Walker's is higher," she went on, balancing merits, "only he's so conceited about it."

"Pride comes before a fall," I said, "though a good deal depends on the bowlers."

"Then there's Mr. Dean," she said, thoughtfully, "he brought me some chocolates today."

"What does Mr. Dean do?" I asked. "Bird's nest?"

"Of course not," she said, laughing. "He rows, and he won a sculling match the other day."

"Dean's a hot man," I said.

"There are such a lot of young men," she said, frowning her brows, as Penelope did in all probability when she considered the vast number of her suitors.

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"Wait a few years," I suggested. "There won't be so many then."

"Why not?" she asked.

"It's a kind of political economy," I said, vaguely. "There'll want to be quite as many. Very likely more. But you will only see one. He will have an exceedingly high average, and you will probably think he ought to represent England against the Australians. Whether he sculls or not you will be convinced that he is the best potential sculler that was ever born. Other girls will not agree with you, and the Committee of Selection will declare that they cannot put everyone into the English Eleven. You will abuse the Committee of Selection. The only existing young man will wave his hand negligently, and say that after all there are better things than cricket. He will bring you as many boxes of chocolates as you please."

"That will be nice," she said, "only I may be tired of chocolates by then."

"Chocolates," I declared, "are frequently rejected in favor of other sweets."

"What sort?" she asked, looking at me, and wondering at my great experience.

"A sort that doesn't make you sticky," I said, diplomatically.

"And will it be many years?" she said, "that I shall have to wait?" She looked at me curiously from under the sailor hat. A little wind blew through the lilacs and carried the scent towards us. Many years? I looked at her. I thought of the lawnings rejoicing in their new crests and of the spring that brings love to the heart of a young man. But, then, I was an Unknown Quantity. I remembered how puzzling is the task of solving x. What right had I to puzzle My Lady of the Pig Tail—or to consider the matter on the lower levels of possibility—what chance of winning her so young?

"And will it be many years?" she repeated.

"Not more than two or three," I said as cheerfully as possible.

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My latest parody hit, "I'd Leave My Happy Home for You," is a winner. Pick 'em out. "Happy Till She Met You," "Ain't Got No Money" (Jew), "Hello, My Baby" (Irish), "Because" (topical), "I've Waited Honey" (singing song), "Sunny Tennessee" "Just One Girl," 10c. each, 3 for 25c; 8 for 50c. BUNCH of Gags, 10c. MONOLOGUES (including parody): Tramp, Irish, Black Face, Dutch, Soubrette, 25c. each. SKETCHES: "Two Funny Burglars," 25c.; "A Clean Shave" (com. and sub.), 25c.; Dutch Knockabout (2 m. gag), 25c.; "Pineapple's Rent Day" (2 m. gag), 25c. Talking act for 2 males, "A Spicy Mistake," 25c. Cousin "Innocent" (lady and gent), 25c. Special work to order. A. A. SHEA, 318 E. 10th St., Rochester, N. Y.

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TWO GOOD REPERTOIRE PEOPLE, a Man for Heavies or anything cast for, Lady for Juveniles and Soubrettes; people that sing preferred. Would not object to man and wife, but must have good wardrobe and be competent. State lowest salary in first letter. Management pays hotel, etc. J. C. ROCKWELL, Manager Dramatic Co., Lyndonville, Vt.

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I want a good Organ Player who does a few specialties and can work in acts, also Musical Man, Contortionist, good S. and D. People, change for one week. A good home for good people who can stand prosperity. Salary twelve and railroad fare after joining. Will advance tickets to right parties. Organ players given preference. JACK BRAINARD, Minor, N. Dak.

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Send stamp for prof. copies above songs. Orchestration of songs on request. Write name and address plainly. Orchestra Leaders, send stamp for piano copy and ten cents for full orchestration.

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Singers, Talkers, Grotesque Dancers and Contortionists. Closing 13 successful weeks with A Jolly Lot Co. and a BIG HIT. Managers and agents looking for a Strong, Clean, 15 minute Novelty Act address GEN. DEL., Hamilton, Ohio. P. S.—Would accept Eastern dates.

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Must have good wardrobe; also PIANIST and PROPERTY MAN who understands electricity thoroughly. You must attend strictly to business and work for manager's interest. We have just cleaned out one batch of booters and disorganizers. We will not tolerate such people a minute. SALARY SURE. Address immediately KNOXVILLE, IOWA.

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ALSO MAN FOR GENERAL BUSINESS. Those doing Specialties and playing Brass preferred. Tickets advanced to responsible parties. Wire. Can use a few good MUSICIANS. N. T. REINS, Manager. Dallas, Tex., Dec. 26, Denton 20, McKinney 3, Sherman Jan. 1, Denison Jan. 2, Terrell Jan. 3.

A Happy New Year to All. FROM ZAVO and MLLE. HILDA

THIS WEEK AT PROCTOR'S PLEASURE PALACE THEATRE.

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Both play parts. Permanent address, 260 GRAHAM AVE., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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CLARK and GANDY,

Happy New Year.

"THE MERRY MAKERS."

THE ACT NOW CREATING SO MUCH TALK.

Opened in Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 19, '99; Olympic, Chicago, Ill., Sept. 26, '99; Chicago Opera House, Ill., Oct. 2, '99; Hopkins' Theatre, Chicago, Ill., Oct. 16, '99; Atlantic Garden, N. Y. City, Nov. 13, '99; Standard, Phila., Pa., Nov. 20, '99; Felt's, New Haven, Conn., Nov. 27, '99; Keith's, Boston, Mass., Dec. 4, '99; Waldmann's, Newark, N. J., Dec. 11, '99; Keith's Union Square, N. Y. City, Dec. 18, '99; Keith's, Phila., Pa., Dec. 25, '99; Dewey, Camden, N. J., Jan. 1, 1900; OFEN Jan. 8, 1900; Moore's, Detroit, Jan. 15, 1900; Moore's, Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 22, 1900; Olympic, Chicago, Jan. 29, 1900; Hopkins', Chicago, Feb. 5, 1900; Imperial, St. Louis, Feb. 11, 1900; Orpheum, Kansas City, Feb. 18, 1900; Orpheum, Omaha, Feb. 25, 1900; Haymarket, Chicago, March 5, 1900; Chicago Opera House, March 12, 1900.

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THE BARNUM OF ALL
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Character Man, Soubrette with Specialties, Leading Man,
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Other Musicians to Double Band and Orchestra.

Actors doubling brass given preference. Address FARNHAM, SWANFORD & CO., care Great Western Printing Co., St. Louis, Mo. Will rent sleeping and dining cars.

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**"ON THE BANKS
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Orchestration to Professionals Free of Charge.

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HILDA THOMAS,
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Keith's Union Square week Dec. 25,

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**WANTED, FOR THE
GUS SUN MINSTRELS,**

Comedian to do Principal End, Clarinet for Band and Orchestra.

Other useful Minstrel People and Musicians write. State salary expected and full particulars first letter.

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FOR THIS SEASON'S BIG WINNER,
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One First Class SKETCH TEAM. Also JUVENILE MAN that can sing, Character Man that does Specialty, A SISTER TEAM; must do strong Dancing Act. PIANIST that knows his business. State very lowest salary first letter.

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Late of Bryce and Inman. A Happy New Year to all Friends.

"THE TWO METRONOMES."

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HIGH CLASS MUSICAL ARTISTS.
We tick Rag Time. But after Feb. 11 it will be Open Time. Address care of CITY HOTEL, Omaha, Neb.

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First Class Character Man**
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Must join at once. Trenton, N. J., Dec. 20-30; S. Norwalk, Conn., Jan. 1; Stamford, Ct., Jan. 2; Derby, Ct., Jan. 3.

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WANT MALE PIANIST. Must be good reader, willing to play a few small parts. State age, height, weight, experience and salary. Young man preferred. W. W. NEAL, 191 Merriman St., Akron, Ohio.

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Gentleman for Leading Business and
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State Salary. Send photo and full particulars in first letter. An engagement to the right people. Address

CHARLES LEYBURNE,

Chester, Pa., Dec. 25 and week; Allentown, Pa., Jan. 1 and week.

HATTIE VAN BUREN and E. LAWRENCE LEE write or wire, quick.

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CLEVER JUVENILE MAN

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Also MAN FOR COMEDIES AND GEN. BUS. Preference given those doubling in band. Other useful people write. J. P. BENTLEY, Star Manhattan Stock Co.

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State what your act is REALLY worth in first letter. Address all communications to

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Yours very truly,
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Single and Double also PIANIST. No tickets. Write quick.
IRVING E. GLANT, Mgr., St. Albans, Vt.

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Everything necessary to bill it right.
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